

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT 25X1

TOPIC Military Activity in the Kochstedt, Rosslau, Prenzlau and Wittenberg Posts

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 11 January 1955

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Between 27 November and 12 December 1954, the barracks installation (3401) in Rosslau was occupied by approximately 4,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery and tank insignia. On 27 November, approximately 50 soldiers received instruction on 4 JS-2 tanks in the installation. Between 23 November and 14 December, up to 800 soldiers were seen at marksmanship training at the Luko firing range and up to 400 soldiers, organized into groups of 20 to 40 men, engaged in basic training with small arms in the training area on the road to ~~Meinendorf~~.¹ 25X1
2. At about midnight on 6 December, a train with approximately 15 tanks and 150 soldiers arrived in the installation.² 25X1
3. Between 23 November and 14 December, the barracks installation (3241) in Kochstedt was occupied by approximately 3,500 soldiers wearing red bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. On 27 November, approximately 120 soldiers, presumably recruits, received individual training. On 30 November, approximately 300 soldiers received training in firing at the Kochstedt firing range.
4. On 6, 7, and 10 December, approximately 60 soldiers received instruction on 3 x 37-mm AA guns and 2 x 76-mm or 85-mm AA guns in the installation.¹
5. On 15 December, the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse (4742) in Prenzlau was occupied to capacity by approximately 2,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. An M-6 armored personnel carrier and approximately 10 trucks were seen in the installation.
6. On 15 December, the barracks installation northwest of Berliner Strasse (4741) in Prenzlau was also occupied to capacity by approximately 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Nine T-34 tanks and 2 tanks of an undetermined type with smooth barrel and a caliber of about 150 cm were seen in the installation.³ 25X1
7. At 1800 on 2 December, a Soviet troop train passed through the Wittenberg railroad station. The train, which came from the direction of Falkenberg, 25X1

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and proceeded toward Dessau, consisted of 4 converted boxcars and approximately 20 SSy-type flatcars carrying 1 tank each. One of the tanks was definitely a JS-3 tank [redacted] It is believed that the other tanks also were JS-3 tanks.⁴

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8. Groups of 30 to 50 recruits arrived daily aboard regular trains from the direction of Jueterbog. They were always taken to the Arado (3582) installation and were subsequently distributed to the installations in Wittenberg, Jessen, Annaburg etc. The departing details were equipped with submachine guns and rifles.⁵
9. All installations of the Wittenberg post appeared to be occupied beyond capacity. Ten to 20 tanks or more daily left the Beseler Kaserne (3584) and the Flak Kaserne (3583) in Wittenberg for the training area near Eurer. The tanks occasionally included a tank of the new type which, so far, had been observed in Wittenberg only twice: approximately 20 tanks of this type were seen during the return from the summer camp and, another time, one tank was seen at the Wittenberg railroad station and left on a train toward Jueterbog. The following details were observed: five large bogie wheels similar to those of a T-34 tank; a total height not exceeding 1.6 meters; a 85-mm gun with muzzle brake which, seen from the front, was located between, and not more than 20 cm over, the tracks. The tanks were turtle-shaped.⁶
10. [redacted]
1. [redacted] Comment. Increased training in firing was conducted, in addition to the previously observed basic training with and without rifle.
2. [redacted] Comment. This was probably the return of a tank firing detail.
3. [redacted] Comment. The tanks of an undetermined type cannot be identified, particularly, since their caliber was estimated at 150 cm. However, their observation may be a first indication that the 25th Tank Div was also equipped with the new type of tank.
4. [redacted] Comment. The tank shipment on 2 December cannot be identified.
5. [redacted] Comment. The shipments of recruits probably involved stragglers from the personnel distribution point of the Third Gds Mecz Army in Jueterbog. No information on quarters in Jessen and Annaburg of units of the 6th Gds Tank Div has so far been received. The medical depot of the Third Gds Mecz Army has been believed stationed in Jessen. The training area of the 6th Gds Tank Div is located near Annaburg.
6. [redacted] Comment. The description of the new type of tank in Wittenberg roughly agrees with previous observations.

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9. All installations of the Wittenberg post appeared to be occupied beyond capacity. Ten to 20 tanks or more daily left the Beseler Kaserne (7584) and the Flak Kaserne (3587) in Wittenberg for the training area near Duerer. The tanks occasionally included 1 tank of the new type which, so far, had been observed in Wittenberg only twice: approximately 20 tanks of this type were seen during the return from the summer camp and, another time, one tank was seen at the Wittenberg railroad station and left on a train toward Jueterbog. The following details were observed: five large bogie wheels similar to those of a T-34 tank; a total height not exceeding 1.6 meters; a 85-mm gun with muzzle brake high, seen from the front, was located between, and not more than 20 cm over, the tracks. The tanks were turtle-shaped.⁶

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